

## III. Corophidæ.

Amphithoë penicillata.	Podocerus longicornis,	Cyrtophium glabrum,
— bicuspis, <i>n. sp.</i>	<i>n. sp.</i>	<i>n. sp.</i>
— Brusinæ.	Microdeutopus gryllo-	Cratippus pusillus.
Podocerus pulchellus.	talpa.	— crassipes, <i>n. sp.</i>
— monodon, <i>n. sp.</i>	— Titii, <i>n. sp.</i>	Corophium longicorne.
— Ocius.	Cerapus abditus.	— acherusicum.
— largimanus, <i>n. sp.</i>		Chelura terebrans.

## B. LÆMODIPODA.

Caprella phasma.	Caprella armata, <i>n. sp.</i>	Caprella leptonyx,
— acutifrons.	— monacantha,	<i>n. sp.</i>
— obtusa, <i>n. sp.</i>	<i>n. sp.</i>	— aspera, <i>n. sp.</i>

*Sitzungsber. der Kais. Akad. der Wiss. in Wien*, November 4, 1865.

*On a new mode of Parasitism observed in an undescribed Animal.*

By M. LACAZE-DUTHIERS.

The author detected on the Antipatharian Coral described by him under the name of *Gerardia* some small, flat, reniform bodies, which were immersed in the soft tissues of the polypary. On opening some of these, he saw escaping from them a swarm of small Crustacean embryos. The enclosing capsule proved to be the parent animal.

M. Lacaze-Duthiers compares this parasite to a small lobster, at the utmost 1–2 centimetres (millim. ?\*) in length, having the thoracic portion disproportionately extended and forming a large flattened sac opening only by a pore situated near the middle of its free border.

The true body of the animal is suspended by its back within this greatly developed carapace, which attains a diameter of 3 or 4 centim. (millim. ?). The body is strongly curved, and the head is very small. The abdomen consists of articulated segments, and bears six regular and symmetrical pairs of feet; it contains only a large yellowish digestive tube, of which the orifices are nearly obliterated. This curious Crustacean forms a new genus, to which the author gives the name of *Laura*; the species he denominates *L. Gerardia*. As it lives within the tissues of the *Gerardia*, M. Lacaze-Duthiers believes that its nourishment is obtained by direct absorption from the latter, rather than by digestion.

The walls of the utricular carapace are nearly cartilaginous in texture, are pierced by an immense number of pores, from which excessively delicate tubes radiate into the surrounding sarcosoma; and through these the fluids of the polypary pass directly into the venous lacunæ of the parasite. The circulatory apparatus is very rudimentary, and there are no special organs of respiration. The nervous system is also very little developed.

The reproduction of the animal is equally curious with its mode of parasitism. It is hermaphrodite. The female glands occur with the liver in the substance of the integuments of the utricle, and open

\* The measurements given by the author seem to be erroneous; they would make the body of the animal from  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length, and the diameter of the carapace  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{2}{3}$  inch.

in a singular position. The legs, which resemble those of the lower Crustacea in their general characters, present at the base behind a sort of process, at the apex of which are the genital orifices.

Those of the first pair are much slenderer than the rest, and it is in them that the oviducts terminate.

The male glands are lodged within the legs, and open upon the processes by as many apertures as there are spermatogenous capsules. Thus the ten posterior legs are male, and the two anterior female. Hence fecundation must take place within the pouch in which the body is suspended, and the utricle serves at once for absorption by its outer surface and for reproduction by its inner surface, as a true incubation takes place in its cavity. The author has observed all the details of the embryogeny of this singular parasite.

He also remarks upon the great development of the liver, and its position in the midst of the venous network of the carapace, which directly receives the nutritive fluid from without. Bile is secreted in great quantities, although scarcely any digestion can be said to take place; hence he infers that the liver must be regarded as a purifier or modifier of the fluids intended for nutrition, and that its function in digestion in the higher animals is probably to be regarded as a secondary one.—*Comptes Rendus*, Nov. 13th, 1865, p. 838.

*On the Development of the Axolotl (Siredon mexicanus vel Humboldtii).* By A. DUMÉRIL.

On the 17th April last, M. Duméril communicated to the Academy of Sciences some observations on the development of young Axolotls from ova deposited in the Menagerie at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle; and from that date to the month of September the development of these animals continued without presenting any phenomena calling for special notice. The animals having then attained a length of 0·21 metre, nearly equal to that of their parents (0·25 m.), one of them, which had not been particularly observed for a fortnight, suddenly attracted attention by presenting an aspect quite different from that of the other specimens of the same age. It no longer possessed branchial tufts, or only retained traces of them; the membranous crests of the back and tail had disappeared; the form of the head was slightly modified; and there appeared on the body and limbs numerous yellowish-white spots, which contrasted strikingly with the general blackish colour. On the 28th September a second individual had undergone the same change, and on the 7th October a third presented it in a less advanced form.

On the 10th October M. Duméril was enabled to observe this metamorphosis from its commencement. On this day some yellowish-white points made their appearance on the limbs of a specimen, and the portion of the crest nearest to the head was effaced. Between this day and the 25th October the crest disappeared throughout its whole extent, the branchial lamellæ and subsequently the appendages supporting them gradually diminished in length, until on the 6th November there were only three little projections, scarcely apparent above the skin, on the sides of the neck. The head had decreased